

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06446 091123Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3221

INFO THE WHITE HOUSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 6446

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, YE, US, PDIP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 4 TO KING KHALID ON
CAMP DAVID AND SUPPORT FOR NORTH YEMEN

REF: STATE 224270

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE KING AS CONTAINED IN
REFTEL ON 5 SEPTEMBER AT KING'S RESIDENCE AT TAIF. WE HAD
PREVIOUSLY DELIVERED A COPY IN BOTH ENGLISH AND ARABIC TO DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOURI AT JIDDA. WE ALSO DELIVERED, JUST PRIOR
TO THE MEETING WITH THE KING, A COPY TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD
AND HAD A DISCUSSION WITH HIM ABOUT ITS CONTENTS (SEE JIDDA 6440)

2. THE KING CAME IN FROM EVENING PRAYERS WITH CROWN PRINCE
FAHD AND PRINCE ABDULLAH, WHO STAYED WITH HIM DURING THE MEETING.
I HAD NOT SEEN THE KING IN NEARLY SIX WEEKS AND I FELT HE
LOOKED A LITTLE TIRED AND WORN, WHICH MAY BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY
THE FASTING OF RAMADAN JUST CONCLUDED THE DAY BEFORE. FAHD,
ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEARED BRIGHT AND ALERT.

3. THE MESSAGE WAS READ IN ARABIC TO THE GROUP BY
SENIOR ISA K. SABBAGH. AT THE END OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH
REFERRING TO S.C. RESOLUTION 2442, CROWN PRINCE FAHD

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ASKED SABBAGH IF HE WOULD REPEAT THAT PARAGRAPH. THIS DONE,
CROWN PRINCE FAHD ASKED, "WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED OR THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES"? HE WAS TOLD OCCUPIED WITHOUT THE
ARTICLE "THE." HE SMILED WRYLY, SAYING, "THERE IS NOTHING
NEW, THIS IS ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE." AT THE PORTION OF THE MESSAGE
DEALING WITH PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD BROKE
IN TO SAY THIS WAS A RESTATEMENT OF THE ASWAN DECLARATION.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE READING, THE KING COMMENTED ON HOW IMPORTANT THE RESULTS OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WERE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. "WE LIKE THE REST OF THE PEOPLES IN THE AREA AND THE WORLD," SAID KHALID, "WILL CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT CAMP DAVID WILL PRODUCE THE JUST RESULTS FOR ACHIEVING THE PEACE WE ALL DESIRE. IT'S ABOUT TIME TO SOLVE THE PERNICIOUS PROBLEM WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE AREA AND MARRED US-ARAB RELATIONS FOR 30 YEARS. BUT SOUTH ARABIA IS OF EVEN MORE IMMEDIACY THAN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE." THIS SENTIMENT WAS ENDORSED BY FAHD.

5. I REITERATED HOW GRATEFUL THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WERE FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH SAUDI ARABIA WAS GIVING TO THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT AND HOW NECESSARY THE CONTINUED SUPPORT WOULD BE TO IMPLEMENT ANY AGREEMENT OR TO KEEP THE PEACE PROCESS MOVING AFTER THE CAMP DAVID MEETING. I POINTED OUT TO THE GROUP THAT COOPERATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS WAS BUT ONE OF THE SEVERAL FACTORS IN THE CONTINUING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND SAG AND THAT REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF CAMP DAVID, THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD ENDURE AND CONTINUE TO GROW. AGAIN, BOTH THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE AGREED AND STATED THEIR FERVENT PRAYERS WOULD BE WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING THIS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD WHICH HAS SUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD.

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6. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE SOUTH ARABIA SITUATION (SEE SEPTTEL).
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